



Crowned 2011 Gosford Showgirl, Miss Hannah Wade of Silver Gully Estate, Mangrove Mountain



2011 Gosford Showgirl

Runner up Samantha Hinton, finalist Emma McDonald Winner Hannah Wade



Gosford Show is a renowned drought breaker, so in the wet conditions the warm and enthusiastic crowd was appreciated by the finalists for the 2011 Gosford Showgirl competition.

The winner was announced on Saturday 30 April at the Show, and local identity Chris King was the compeer. He made particular note of the calibre of the entrants, and pointed out that we can be confident that the country is in good hands when we have such confident, intelligent and capable young woman standing by ready to assume leadership roles.

The five finalists were all beautiful young women who conducted themselves throughout the competition with poise and grace. Whilst not a harrowing experience the judging was thorough and extensive and was undertaken over a period of two weeks with on stage appearances, private judging, attendance at public events, some promotional work and the final judging on Saturday evening.

The Squaremeater Association was well represented with three of the five finalists young women who have been and continue to be actively involved in growing and showing Squaremeater cattle. Emma McDonald and Samantha Hinton have both worked for several Hunter Valley studs, and both girls remain in contact with Hannah Wade from Silver Gully Estate. In fact all three women will be in attendance at the Hawkesbury Show where Squaremeaters are the feature breed.

Gosford Showgirl 2011 was a groundbreaking event with two of the young ladies married, and Emma McDonald is the first ever mother with two of the cutest babies you could ever imagine, Olivia 2 and William 7 months. Emma was educated at Brisbane Water Secondary College, and has a strong agricultural background after becoming involved with the cattle programme whilst at school. She is married to the agricultural teacher at BWSC and shares responsibility with him for showing and preparing the family Limousin cattle for show and sale. Emma is currently enrolled in a Bachelor of Education, primary school.

Chloe Potter works with StarFM radio and won the Showgirl People's Choice Award for 2011. Chloe is an elegant woman with aspirations to continue her career in radio which is well within her reach. Watch this space as Chloe's name is sure to be well known in the future.

Danielle Solway also has aspirations to continue her acting career, and has already performed in stage productions and in short films. Danielle works in retail and volunteers two days a week at the Reptile Park. She has really relished the opportunity to expand her skills working with animals whilst completing a course at TAFE in animal studies.

Samantha Hinton is a delightful young woman with a beaming smile who immediately draws people to her. Sam and Emma and Hannah have all known each other for years having all been involved in the agricultural industry showing cattle at various local sales, and then of course at the Royal Easter Show. The camaraderie between the girls was infectious and when each girl was asked by Chris King what they had enjoyed most about the competition they all stated that it was the time spent supporting each other throughout the competition. Sam completed her agricultural certificates at Tocal College after graduating from Brisbane Water College. She is now enrolled in a veterinary assistant certificate course, and is working

in a veterinary clinic. Sam plans to expand upon her business qualifications so that she can own and operate her own veterinary clinic eventually.

Hannah Wade lives at Mangrove Mountain where she and her family own and operate a Squaremeater Cattle Stud that has now expanded into a 'paddock to plate" operation providing premium meat packages direct to the consumer. Hannah is in her 4th year of a Law/International Studies degree and is working for a law firm in Gosford. Hannah is responsible for the management decisions of the farm and is contemplating a future that allows her to combine her agricultural background with her law degree. Hannah is also the Secretary of the Mangrove Mountain & District Country Fair association and is keen to see more young people come on board so that the Country Fair remains fresh and relevant to today's community.

The calibre of the finalists was outstanding, and any one of these young woman was capable of winning the title. Samatha Hinton was voted Runner Up, Chloe Potter was the People's Choice and Hannah Wade was crowned Gosford Showgirl for 2011. Hannah has stated that she would like to expand her mentor role for young women who are interested in becoming actively involved in agriculture.

Congratulations Hannah, and to all of the worthy finalists. It was a pleasure to be able to watch the judging, and certainly it was inspirational to see such fine young women proud to take on leadership roles in the wider community. We know we will be seeing much more from these women in the future.